RAAF/RAN Comparisons

From the available records, direct comparisons between RAAF and RAN WW2 radar technicnology is not possible. However, the following gives some insight to the similarities and differences.

Personnel.

Through the “Bailey Boy” program, the RAAF trained 160 radar specialist officers. The RAN trained 14. At the Melbourne Technical College (later RMIT), 403 technicians were trained for the RAN, 363 of whom were classified as radio mechanics. 15,801 technicians were trained at RMIT for the RAAF. It is not know how many of these were destined to maintain the RAAF radar installations.

Types of Radar

The RAAF had 18 different types of radar sets, manufactured variously in UK, USA, Canada and Australia. The RAN had 22 different types of radar sets manufactured in UK, USA and Australia.

Operating Frequencies

All RAAF equipment operated on a nominal 200 Mcs frequency. Of the 22 RAN set types, 9 operated at a nominal 200 Mcs, and 13 operated in the 3,000 and 10,000 Mcs ranges

Installations

The RAAF had 124 radar installations operating in the Australian mainland. The RAN had 194 ships and shore establishments equipped with radar. Of these 122 were sea going in vessels such as cruiser, destroyer, mine sweeper, sloop, frigate, armed merchant cruiser, troop ship, Yangste river boat, patrol boat to name some.

Other

Designers of RAN equipment had to be cognisant of the need to conserve space and weight, not such an important consideration for the RAAF equipment. RAAF equipment had to be designed such that it could be quickly dismantled and reassembled for rapid relocation to another site. Logistics for supply of food for RAAF personnel and fuel for the generators had to be carefully planned and monitored, as many of the sites were in relatively remote locations.

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